

REMARKS

The Present Invention

The present invention pertains to isolated immunogenic peptides, derivatives thereof, analogs thereof, compositions thereof, and methods of using the same.

The Pending Claims

Claims 100, 102, 103, 107-191 are pending. Claims 100, 102, 103, and 107-115 are directed to isolated immunogenic peptides, claims 116 and 117 are directed to compositions comprising the same, and claims 118-137 are directed to methods of using the compositions. Claims 138-142 are directed to derivatives of the immunogenic peptides, claims 143 and 144 are directed to compositions comprising the same, and claims 145-164 are directed to methods of using the compositions. Claims 165-169 are directed to analogs of the immunogenic peptide, claims 170 and 171 are directed to compositions comprising the same, and claims 172-191 are directed to methods of using the compositions.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 101 and 104-106 have been cancelled. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any canceled subject matter in a continuation, continuation-in-part, divisional, or other application. Cancellation of any subject matter should not be construed as abandonment of that subject matter.

Claim 100 has been amended to recite "consisting of a portion of SEQ ID NO: 39, wherein said portion comprises (i) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 56-70 of SEQ ID NO: 39 or (ii) at least 9 contiguous amino acids from amino acids 448-462 of SEQ ID NO: 39. Claim 100 also has been amended to delete "or a derivative of either of the foregoing, wherein the amino acid sequence of the derivative is at least 85% identical with the immunogenic peptide." Furthermore, claim 100 has been amended to recite "wherein the immunogenic peptide is about 9 to about 34 amino acids in length." The amendments of claim 100 are supported in the specification at, for instance, page 8, lines 13-28, and page 9, lines 8-10. Claims 102 and 103 have been amended to recite "wherein the portion comprises" in order to be consistent with the amendments of claim 100. Claim 132 has also been amended to recite the correct claim on which it is dependent, namely claim 129.

Claim 138-164 have been added, of which claim 138 is directed to a derivative of the immunogenic peptide of claim 100. Claim 138 incorporates the features of cancelled claims 101 and 104-106, whereas claims 139-164 are parallel to claims 112-137. Claims 165-191 have also been added, of which claim 165 is directed to an analog of the immunogenic

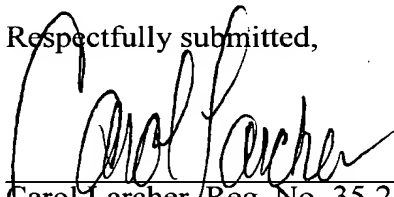
In re Appln. of Topalian et al.
Application No. 08/533,895

peptide of claim 100, wherein the analog comprises a conservative substitution of an amino acid residue and wherein the analog is recognized by a CD4⁺ T lymphocyte, which is restricted by a MHC Class II molecule. Claim 165 is supported in the specification by, for example, page 9, line 19, through page 10, line 28. Claims 166-191 are parallel to claims 112-137. No new matter has been added by way of the amendments.

Conclusion

The application is considered to be in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Carol Larcher, Reg. No. 35,243
LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER, LTD.
Two Prudential Plaza, Suite 4900
180 North Stetson
Chicago, Illinois 60601-6780
(312) 616-5600 (telephone)
(312) 616-5700 (facsimile)

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